hand to form as speedily as possible the necessary mass of manoeuvre.

So it seemed to me that you might consider it useful as a preliminary measure to entrust to one of the members of the Government who have continually to be going to London, the mission of supporting with his high authority, when meeting the English Prime Minister and General *British* Robertson, the point of view which I ^ve adopted ; of insisting on the necessity of giving General Haig the necessary instructions ; and of speeding up the dispatch of English Territorial divisions destined for the French Front, so that the relief of our divisions can take place as near as possible to the time I have indicated.

I venture to insist upon the decisive importance of the plan of operations for 1917, and upon the serious inconvenience which would result from undertaking them with insufficient means.

R. NIVELLE."

The purport of these interchanges was communicated to the War Cabinet the evening before the Anglo-French Conference of 26th December. We had no opportunity of conferring upon the subject with either the Chief of the Staff or the Commander-in-Chief. This will explain the discussions at this Conference.

Mr. Buchan, in his " History of the War/5 lapsing into his fictional mood, gives a fanciful picture of my meeting General Nivelle at the Gare du *Buchan s stroke Nord* on my way back

from the Rome
of fiction Conference in January, of his seizing the
opportunity afforded by the *dix minutes*
d'arrêt at the station to unfold to me his great
strategical plan, and he proceeds to tell how, having